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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Smallpox at Palmetto and Oak Hill, Fla.

TAMPA BAY QUARANTINE, MULLET KEY,
via Tampa, Fla., June 6, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on June 3 Dr. Jos. Y. Porter, State health officer for Florida and sanitary inspector U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, arrived at this station on the U. S. steamer *W. D. Bratton* and invited me to accompany him to Palmetto to investigate what was reported to him as a suspicious eruptive disease.

Palmetto is a town of 600 inhabitants, located on the Manatee River, about 14 miles from this station. We arrived there at 1.30 p. m., called on Dr. Harrison, the local physician who reported the case, and with him visited the patient. He presented a well-marked typical case of discrete variola, in transition from the vesicular to the pustular stage. The man, a white mechanic, had been at work at Oak Hill, 12 miles from Palmetto, on the new extension of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, and was taken sick soon after returning from that place. He stated that many of the negro laborers at Oak Hill had been affected with an eruption, which was called by them "bumps," "camp itch," or "elephant itch," to which he had been exposed. The necessary sanitary precautions and measures to effect a general vaccination of the populace of the town were gone over with the 3 local physicians, and it was decided to visit Oak Hill to investigate the extent of the disease at that place.

On the morning of June 4, the Seaboard Air Line Railway kindly furnished an engine to convey the party to Oak Hill. The 3 local physicians, Dr. Leffingwell, of Braidentown, on the opposite side of Manatee River from Palmetto, and Judge Graham, the county agent of the State board of health, accompanied Dr. Porter and myself to Oak Hill.

Arriving there, we found a camp of between 200 and 300 negro laborers, among whom were discovered 4 cases of modified smallpox in a convalescent stage and 2 cases of measles. There was no physician at the camp, and none of these men had been treated at all. The cases were extremely mild, but pustules had formed in the palms of the hands and on the plantar surfaces of the feet, and some pitting had occurred on their faces.

Dr. Porter telegraphed for a supply of fresh vaccine virus and directed Dr. Lartique, of the State health department, to proceed to Oak Hill and carry out the proper sanitary measures.

We returned to Palmetto at noon and proceeded to Mullet Key, where I rejoined my station at 1.20 p. m., June 4.

Respectfully,

CLAUDE C. PIERCE,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Case of smallpox on steamship Illinois, at Chicago, Ill.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 29, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the purser of the steamship *Illinois* applied to the out-patient office yesterday for relief, and upon examination he was found to be suffering from a mild case of smallpox, and was sent to the city isolation hospital. The crew of the vessel was vaccinated and the purser's apartments were fumigated with formaldehyd.

Respectfully,

HENRY W. SAWTELLE,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox at Marine-Hospital, Boston, Mass.

BOSTON (CHELSEA STATION), MASS., May 28, 1902.

SIR: I have to inform you that John W. Richardson was admitted to this hospital last night, suffering from smallpox, and was placed in the isolation ward. He was a member of the crew of the schooner *Josephine Ellicott*, of this port, but had been wandering about Boston for several days. The vessel left this port last Saturday, the 24th inst, bound for Fernandina, Fla.

Respectfully,

FAIRFAX IRWIN,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

A case of smallpox at Niagara Falls, N. Y.

NIAGARA FALLS, N. Y., May 25, 1902.

SIR: Please take notice that we have in our local quarantine hospital 1 case of smallpox in the person of a colored man. The other inmates of his residence have all been vaccinated and are under supervision. I have reason to believe that patient got infected at Buffalo.

Respectfully,

CARL G. LEO-WOLF,
Health Officer.

Arrival at Reedy Island Quarantine of vessels from West Indian ports.

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,
via Port Penn, Del., June 1, 1902.

SIR: Through the medical officer in command of national quarantine service on Delaware Bay and River, I have the honor to report the arrival at this station of the following vessels: May 26, steamship *King Fredrick*, from Havana, with sugar; no passengers; bill of health signed by Surgeon Glennan. May 27, steamship *King Gruffydd*, from Havana, with sugar; no passengers; bill of health signed by Surgeon Glennan; steamship *Taff*, from Banes, with fruit; no passengers; bill of health signed by M. Hidalgo, temporary quarantine officer. May 28, steamship *Russian Prince*, from Havana, with molasses; no passengers; bill of health signed by Surgeon Glennan. May 29, steamship *Juno*, from Havana, with iron ore; no passengers; bill of health signed by Surgeon Glennan.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.